

Chilkoot Indian Association

P.O. Box 490, Haines, Alaska 99827
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Underwater Communications Cable Removal Haines, Alaska

Project Summary

Derelict military communication cable has been identified as impacting the subsistence and cultural activities of Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA) members in Portage Cove and Dry Bay, Haines Alaska. The CIA is requesting proposals for survey and removal of the communication cable from the mean low tide line to the 100ft depth contour. All proposals should include the use of certified OSHA divers, support vessel, and the capability to meet all OSHA regulations. This RFP does not constitute a contract for services performed or to be performed. Following the selection of the contractor, the CIA will negotiate a contract including a final scope of services.

Background

In 1902 the Army began on a project to link Alaska to the lower-48 via telegraph; which was the same year that orders were given to build Fort Seward, later known as Chilkoot Barracks (F10AK0548). In 1903, and prior to the completion of the fort, an underwater telegraph line was installed that ran from Haines to Skagway, 17 miles to the north. Later the line was tied into a line that connected it with Juneau, thus to the entire military communication system that stretched from north of the arctic circle to Seattle. NOAA maritime chart 17317 shows the existence and location of the cable. The chart shows that the cable makes landfall in two locations, Portage Cove and a location without road access about a mile east of Dry Bay (aka Mud Bay) which is located within the original area encompassed by the fort and about 7 miles from downtown Haines. In 2008, using NOAA nautical chart data the CIA surveyed the Haines Borough Beaches for military communications cable. The CIA confirmed the presence of this cable in Portage and Mud coves. The CIA estimates 800 meters of this cable in Portage Cove running from the high tide line to a depth of 100 ft. The CIA also estimates an additional 300 meters of cable in Mud Cove from the high tide line to a depth of 100 ft.

Haines is a town of 2,500 citizens located on the Chilkat Peninsula in the southeast panhandle of Alaska. The reliance of Haines Borough residents on subsistence foods, both culturally and economically, predates European influence to a time when Tlingit people were the sole inhabitants of the Chilkat Valley. The CIA is working through the Native American Lands Environmental Remediation Program (NALEMP) to implement remedial activities at a former DOD site (Fort Seward Military dock) located in Portage Cove at the end of the Haines Military Cutoff Road, Alaska (F10AK0566). The objective of this project is to remove approximately 1,100 meters of military communications cable from Portage Cove and Dry Bay (Mud Cove) in Haines, Alaska. The removal of this cable will reduce the risk of snagging subsistence nets and pots in Portage and Mud Coves, snagging subsistence fishing gear is not only costly but can be a safety concern for swamping boats or pulling individuals overboard. Removal of the cable will also eliminate the potential of contaminants leaching into the area and being absorbed by subsistence species. It is important to the Tribe that the land is restored because the Tribe has a tradition of using this land for subsistence activities and the cable poses safety and health concerns.

This RFP is soliciting bids for OSHA certified SCUBA divers to survey the underwater cable and remove the cable from the mean low tideline to the 100ft contour. All bids should include a support vessel and the ability to comply with all OSHA regulations.

Project Objectives

With the goal of improving environmental health of Portage Cove and Dry Bay two important subsistence harvest areas, the objectives of this project are to:

- 1) Mobilize to Haines Alaska and establish a site diving and safety plan.
- 2) Conduct an underwater survey at Portage Cove and Dry Bay to determine the location of underwater communication cable at the 100^{ft} depth contour.
- 3) Remove the cable from underwater and off load it at the Haines Small Boat or other preferred location for disposal.
- 4) Cable should be removed no later than June 30th 2013.

Scope of Services

- 1) Site diving and safety plan.
- 2) Underwater survey of cable and estimate of the length of cable to be removed.
- 3) Remove cable from the underwater environment to the deck of a support vessel where it can be safely transported to the Haines Small Boat Harbor or other agreed upon location.

The contractor will furnish all materials, equipment, and labor required to conduct an underwater survey of the cable, remove the cable, and place it on the deck of a support vessel. The contractor will supply a support vessel for divers and cable removal. At minimum one CIA employee will be available to assist with site reconnaissance and cable removal. In addition, CIA will supply one support vessel capable of hauling the cable from the contract vessel to the shore if so desired by the contractor.

Budget

This RFP is offered as a Time and Materials request for proposals with a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$35,000.

Schedule

The CIA desires to have the cable removed during the spring/summer of 2013. CIA requests the work schedule be coordinated with Brad Ryan the project manager.

Submittal Requirements

The proposal, not to exceed 6 pages, should include the following items:

Schedule 1

- Cost proposal in the form of Time and Materials with an estimated Not-to-Exceed amount
- Proposed schedule for completion of work
- Name and qualifications of the project manager and staff
- Names, addresses, and qualifications of sub-consultant firms (if any).

Insurance Requirements:

Worker's Compensation Insurance: The Contractor shall provide and maintain, for all employees of the Contractor engaged in work under this Contract, Worker's Compensation Insurance as required by AS 23.30.045. The Contractor shall be responsible for Worker's Compensation Insurance for any subcontractor who directly or indirectly provides services under this Contract.

General Liability Insurance: The Contractor must maintain General Liability Insurance in an amount sufficient to cover any suit that may be brought against the Contractor. This amount must be at least five-hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) combined single limit. The Contractor must assume all insurable risks and bear any loss or injury to property or persons occasioned by neglect or accident during the terms of this Contract, except for sole negligence on the part of the Tribe.

Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance: Covering all vehicles utilized in connection with this project with coverage limits not less than \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per occurrence bodily injury, and \$50,000 property damage

General Provisions

- 1.** Chilkoot Indian Association shall make available to the selected respondent all pertinent reports and documents that may be available and deemed necessary for the provision of the above services.
- 2.** All documents prepared developed for this project shall become property of Chilkoot Indian Association.
- 3.** All documents received will be considered public record and will be retained by Chilkoot Indian Association. Any information within a proposal that is considered confidential must be clearly marked as confidential, proprietary, and not for disclosure without written permission. Pages not marked as such may be subject to public records requests.

Payment, Terms and Schedule

Chilkoot Indian Association shall pay all invoices within 20 business days of submitted invoices.

Submit proposal (1 each in digital format with receipt confirmation) by March 1st 2013 to:

Chilkoot Indian Association
ATTN: Brad Ryan
P.O. Box 490
Phone: 907-766-2323
brad.ryan@takshanuk.org

Figure Approximate location of communication cable in Portage Cove, Haines, AK.

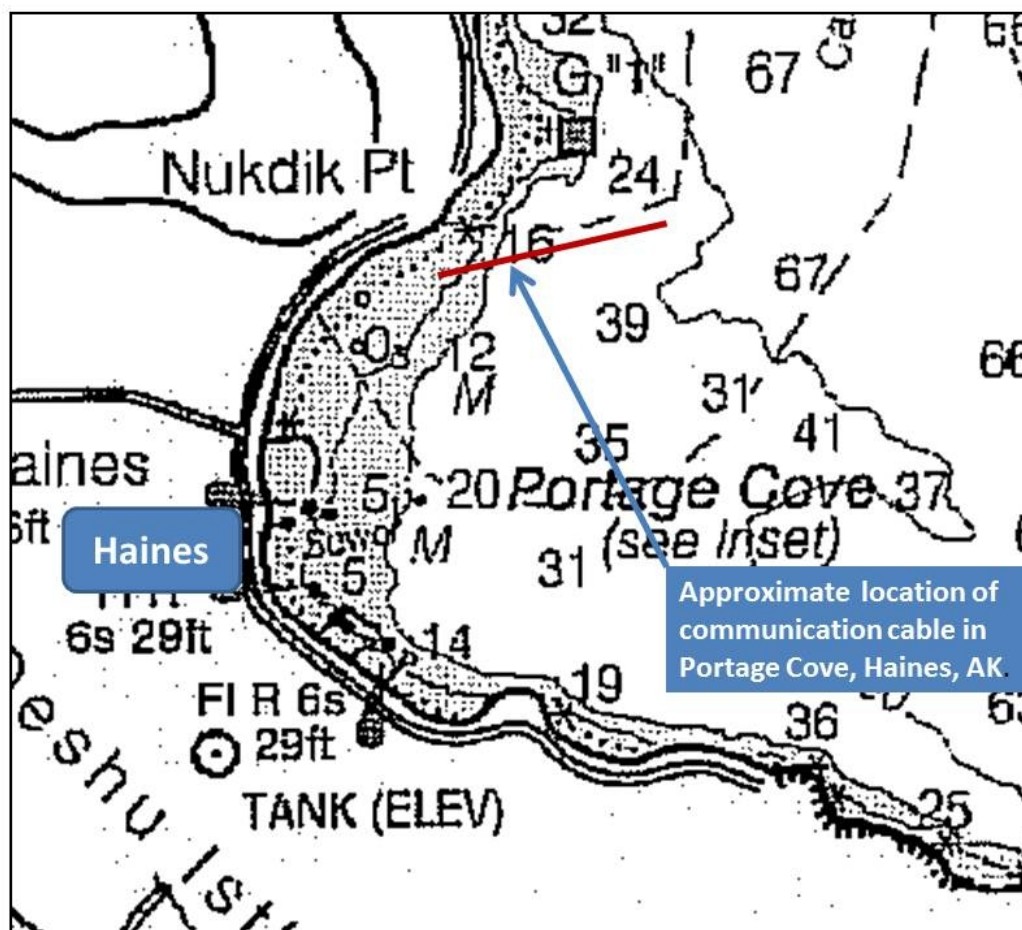


Figure Approximate location of cable in Dry Bay Haines, Alaska.

